



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER
New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics
Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

- NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS
- Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
 - Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
 - New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
 - Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

- NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS
- Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
 - Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
 - Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
 - Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Volume 65No. 18Date: August 4, 2003

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

7 am EDT Monday August 4, 2003

Rainfall amounts, one to two tenths of an inch with locally heavy amounts possible each period during the next 48 hours.

Winds for spraying, south 10 to 15 mph today, south 5 to 10 mph tonight, south 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 60 to 70 today, near 100 tonight, 60 to 70 Tuesday.

Dew points, 70 to 75 through Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair at best today and again Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, moderate dew as well as possible wetting in showers both tonight and Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 30 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a 50 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Hay cutting will not be good over the next several days with a tropical air mass in place over the region producing slow drying conditions and scattered showers and thundershowers.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity is generally favorable in the northern an central part of the state but some irrigation is necessary in the south.

Disease pressure will continue high this week due to the warm and humid conditions.

Weather conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday based on experimental evidence.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period August 11, 2003 through August 17, 2003 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 8/4/03
Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 90 degrees at Freehold on August 4, 2003, and 55 degrees at Freehold on August 31, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.60 inches north, 1.36 inches central, and 0.59 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.29 inches at Long Branch on the August 1, 2003 through August 2, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 83 percent north, 74 percent central, and 50 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 73 degrees north, 74 degrees central, and 75 degrees south.

| WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 08/04/03 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|------|------|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Weather Stations | Rainfall | | | Temperatures | | | | Growing Degree Days 1/ | | Soil Moisture 2/ |
| | Last Week | Since March 1 | | Last Week | | | | | | |
| | | Total | Dept.* | Max. | Min. | Avg. | Dept.* | Total | Dept.* | |
| - Inches - | | | | - Degrees - | | | | - Base 50°F - | | |
| NORTH | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belvidere Bridge | 1.98 | 27.62 | 7.43 | 89 | 59 | 74 | 1 | 1721 | 74 | 100 |
| Canoe Brook | 1.61 | 27.26 | 5.98 | 89 | 59 | 75 | 1 | 1781 | 138 | 94 |
| Charlotteburg | 2.54 | 29.07 | 7.61 | 87 | 59 | 75 | 3 | 1361 | 83 | 100 |
| Flemington | 1.05 | 28.68 | 8.08 | 88 | 57 | 75 | 1 | 1676 | -13 | 87 |
| Long Valley | .86 | 24.02 | 1.93 | 82 | 58 | 71 | -1 | 1276 | -180 | 86 |
| Newton | 1.58 | 24.32 | 4.61 | 86 | 57 | 72 | 0 | 1540 | 46 | 99 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freehold | 1.66 | 23.60 | 3.61 | 90 | 55 | 75 | 0 | 1825 | 16 | 91 |
| Long Branch | 2.66 | 26.35 | 6.43 | 85 | 60 | 73 | -2 | 1663 | -68 | 89 |
| New Brunswick | .28 | 25.65 | 5.66 | 89 | 59 | 76 | 2 | 1780 | -115 | 72 |
| Pemberton | DATA NOT AVAILABLE | | | | | | | | | |
| Toms River | .97 | 23.25 | 2.71 | 88 | 58 | 75 | 1 | 1797 | 63 | 65 |
| Trenton | 1.22 | 22.59 | 3.38 | 88 | 60 | 75 | -1 | 1756 | -219 | 83 |
| SOUTH | | | | | | | | | | |
| A.C. Marina | DATA NOT AVAILABLE | | | | | | | | | |
| Cape May C.H. | .77 | 19.58 | 1.89 | 86 | 61 | 74 | -2 | 1741 | -107 | 39 |
| Downtown | .39 | 21.89 | 3.19 | 89 | 58 | 75 | -1 | 1852 | -135 | 47 |
| Glassboro | .48 | 23.03 | 3.35 | 87 | 63 | 76 | 0 | 1973 | 12 | 61 |
| Hammonton | .09 | 19.06 | -.68 | 89 | 58 | 76 | 0 | 1936 | -24 | 25 |
| Pomona | .74 | 20.64 | 2.79 | 88 | 59 | 75 | 0 | 1802 | -28 | 44 |
| Seabrook | 1.07 | 23.78 | 5.72 | 86 | 64 | 76 | 0 | 2026 | 32 | 70 |
| South Harrison | .36 | 22.04 | 2.20 | 87 | 61 | 75 | NA | 1953 | NA | NA |

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.1. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week over most of the state, with one inch of rainfall in Trenton on August 1, 2003. Top soil moisture was rated 17% short, 79% adequate, and 4% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting wheat and vegetables, cutting hay, spraying pesticides and herbicides, and cultivating fields. In the central district, there were reports of root rot in late planted soybean fields due to wet conditions. Some soybean fields exhibited manganese deficiency due to leaching. Alfalfa caterpillar damaged some alfalfa hay fields in central portions of the state. According to our crop weather reporters, current weather conditions were ideal for intensive rotational grazing to maximize pasture forage production this summer. Vegetables were rated in mostly good condition. Cabbage looper population levels rose dramatically in some central New Jersey cabbage fields. Pollination of cranberry plants finished as berries started to size up. Harvest of early peach varieties began in the central district. In the north, peaches required frequent sprays for brown rot due to continued rainfall washing applied spray treatments away.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

| | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | PREVIOUS YEAR |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| VERY SHORT | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| SHORT | 17% | 23% | 30% |
| ADEQUATE | 79% | 71% | 55% |
| SURPLUS | 4% | 6% | 15% |

RANGE AND PASTURE

| | CURRENT | PREVIOUS WEEK | PREVIOUS YEAR |
|-----------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| VERY POOR | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| POOR | 0% | 3% | 40% |
| FAIR | 57% | 47% | 48% |
| GOOD | 43% | 44% | 12% |
| EXCELLENT | 0% | 6% | 0% |

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 4, 2003

Acorn Squash - Good quantity and quality available.

Arugula - Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Beets - Good quantity and quality available.

Blueberries - Duke variety berries are finished. The follow-up Bluecrop variety will have volume similar to last year. Bluecrop variety berries are being picked now with another week or two left for picking them. Elliott variety berries will start being picked this week and will run through the middle of August.

Cabbage - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantities.

Cilantro - Good quality and decreasing volume with the warmer temperatures.

Collards - Good quality and quantity.

Cucumbers - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

Dill - Good quality and quantity available.

Eggplant - Available in minor quantities. Volume will increase quickly next week.

Escarole/Endive - Good quality and decreasing quantity with the warmer temperatures. Starting to finish up until the fall.

Greens - Good quality and decreasing quantities seen of Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the temperatures increasing.

Italian Eggplant - Good quantities and quality available. Volume still increasing.

Leeks - Available in good quantity and quality.

Lettuces - Minimal quantities available due to the hot summer weather.

Melons - Good quality and fair quantity as volume still increasing in the marketplace.

Parsley - Good quality and quantity of spring seeded plain and curley varieties.

Peaches - Growers are seeing very good quality and size. The early yellow variety Sentry is winding down this week as Redhaven and John Boy varieties start to become available in minor quantities. White peaches will begin to become available later in the week also with the White Lady variety. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. We'll have peaches until the end of September.

Peppers - Available in good quality and quantity this week.

Pickles - Large quantity of good quality product available. We need to move product.

Radishes - Minimal volume available.

Spinach - Minimal quantity available with the hot weather.

Sweet Corn - Increasing volume daily coming into the marketplace. Good quantities of good quality corn available from South Jersey.

Tomatoes - South Jersey volume increasing each week as appreciable quantity of reasonably priced product is finally in the marketplace. Central Jersey just starting to pick this week with North Jersey another week away.

Turnips - Good volume and quantity available.

Yellow Squash - Good quality and quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and quantity available.